Complaints against M/s. Hindustan Lever Ltd.

3180. MAULANA OBAIDULLAH KHAN AZMI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that complaints regarding use of unfair trade practices have been received by Government/MRTPC against M/s Hindustan Lever Ltd. and its subsidiaries especially against its unit, manufacturing RIN soap which is causing damage to its competitors; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and what action, has been taken against M/s Hindustan Lever Ltd. to put a check on them to save and develop other competitors in the field?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI H. R. BHARDWAJ): (a) and (b) No enquiry regarding use of "unfair trade practices" has been instituted against M/s Hindustan Lever Ltd. by the MRTP Commission. However, enquiries regarding "restrictive trade practices" before the MRTP Commission are as follows: (i) Alleged predatory pricing of the detergent cake (Wheel of 125 gms)

(ii) Alleged marketing of shampoo in sachet packs at lower price with a view to eliminating and driving out small scale manufacturers.

Matters regarding scheme of amalgamation of the M/s Tata Oil Mills Co. Ltd. with M/s Hindustan Lever Ltd. is subjudice before the MRTP Commission.

Model code of Conduct for elections

3181. SHRI IQBAL SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are planning to make implementation of the Model Code of Conduct during elections more effective, pending amendment to the law, to give it legal teeth;

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) what is Government's reaction in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI H. R. BHARDWAJ): (a) to (c) The Model Code of Conduct was formulated by the Election Commission of India in 1968 in consultation with political parties for the guidance of the political parties and the contesting candidates. The Government is not required to either implement or enforce the Model Code of Conduct.

Cases pending in Madras High Court

3182. SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 2046 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 16th December, 1993 and state:

(a) how many vacancies are there in Madras High Court as on date;

(b) how many are permanent among them;

(c) how many vacancies were filled since December, 1993;

(d) the details regarding their dates of vacancy and the date of filling in;

(b) whether the new four additional permanent posts have since been sanctioned; if so, when, whether they have since been filled in; and

(f) the total number of cases pending before the High Court for disposal as on date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI H. R. BHARDWAJ): (a) and (b) As on 15.3.1994, there were 3 vacancies of permanent Judges in the Madras High Court against the sanctioned strength of 28 permanent Judges.